

Listing of the Claims:

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A method of resource allocation to yield a benefit comprising
2 the steps of:
3 generating an input ~~time-customer~~ matrix of customer demands for resources
4 indexed by customers and time periods where a benefit function is known in advance; and
5 producing from the input matrix an output ~~time-customer~~ matrix of allocations of
6 resources to customers to realize a benefit, wherein said output matrix is indexed by
7 customers and time periods and reallocating a resource from a first customer to a second
8 customer makes that resource unavailable to the first customer during a time interval that
9 the resource is allocated to the second customer.
- 1 2. (Original) The method of resource allocation as recited in claim 1, wherein resource
2 allocation is done to maximize a benefit.
- 1 3. (Original) The method of resource allocation as recited in claim 1, wherein the benefit
2 is a tangible benefit.
- 1 4. (Original) The method of resource allocation as recited in claim 3, wherein the
2 tangible benefit is a profit and resource allocation is done to maximize the profit.
- 1 5. (Original) The method of resource allocation as recited in claim 1, wherein the benefit
2 is an intangible benefit.
- 1 6. (Original) The method of resource allocation as recited in claim 5, wherein the
2 intangible benefit is customer satisfaction and resource allocation is done to maximize

3 customer satisfaction.

1 7. (Original) The method of resource allocation as recited in claim 1, wherein the
2 resource is computer cycles and resource allocation is done to more efficiently solve
3 computationally intensive problems.

1 8. (Currently amended) A method of resource allocation to yield a benefit comprising the
2 steps of:

3 choosing a state s_t for each time t so as yield a benefit where all the state sets and
4 the a benefit function are known in advance;

5 reducing the a problem to the an analogous maximum-cost network flow problem
6 by

7 constructing a directed network with s “rails”, one per site, each rail being a chain
8 of edges each representing one time step, flow along a rail representing an
9 allocation of resources to a corresponding site,

10 constructing a set of “free pool” nodes, one per time step, through which flow will
11 pass when resources are reallocated from one site to another,

12 for a demand matrix $d_{i,t}$, $1 \leq i \leq s$, $1 \leq t \leq T$, constructing nodes $n_{i,t}$, $1 \leq i \leq s$, $0 \leq t \leq T$,

13 along with nodes f_t , $1 \leq t \leq T$, and for each site s and each time step t ,

14 constructing three edges from $n_{i,t-1}$ to $n_{i,t}$ wherein the first edge has

15 capacity $\lfloor d_{i,t} \rfloor$ and cost $r_{i,t}$, the second edge has capacity one and cost $r_{i,t}$

16 $(d_{i,t} - \lfloor d_{i,t} \rfloor)$, and the third edge has infinite capacity and cost zero, flow

17 along the first edge representing a benefit of allocating resources s to site i

18 during time step t , up to the integer part of $d_{i,t}$, flow along the second edge

19 representing a remaining benefit, $r_{i,t}$ times a fractional part of $d_{i,t}$ to be

20 collected by one more resource, and flow along the third edge representing

21 that extra resources can remain allocated to s but do not collect any

22 benefit,

23 constructing edges of infinite capacity and cost zero from $n_{i,t-1}$ to f_i and from f_i to
24 $n_{i,t}$ for each $1 \leq t \leq T$ and each $1 \leq i \leq s$ which represent a movement of
25 servers from one site to another,
26 constructing a source into which a flow k is injected, with infinite capacity zero
27 cost edges to each $n_{i,0}$, and a sink with infinite capacity zero cost edges
28 from each $n_{i,T}$; and
29 solving the maximum-cost network flow problem and allocating resources.

1 9. (Original) The method of resource allocation as recited in claim 8, wherein resource
2 allocation is done to maximize a benefit.

1 10. (Original) The method of resource allocation as recited in claim 8, wherein the
2 benefit is a tangible benefit.

1 11. (Original) The method of resource allocation as recited in claim 10, wherein the
2 tangible benefit is a profit and resource allocation is done to maximize the profit.

1 12. (Original) The method of resource allocation as recited in claim 8, wherein the
2 benefit is an intangible benefit.

1 13. (Original) The method of resource allocation as recited in claim 12, wherein the
2 intangible benefit is customer satisfaction and resource allocation is done to maximize
3 customer satisfaction.

1 14. (Original) The method of resource allocation as recited in claim 8, wherein the
2 resource is computer cycles and resource allocation is done to more efficiently solve
3 computationally intensive problems.

1 15. (Currently amended) A method for server allocation in a Web server “farm” based
2 on information regarding future loads to achieve close to greatest possible revenue based
3 on an assumption that revenue is proportional to the utilization of servers and
4 differentiated by customer ~~class~~ comprising the steps of:
5 modeling ~~the~~ a server allocation problem mathematically;
6 in the model, dividing time into intervals of fixed length based on ~~the~~ an
7 assumption that ~~each~~ a site’s demand is uniformly spread throughout each such interval;
8 maintaining server allocations fixed for the duration of an interval, servers being
9 reallocated only at the beginning of an interval, and a reallocated server being unavailable
10 for the length of the interval during which it is reallocated providing time to “scrub” ~~the~~
11 an old site (customer data) to which the server was allocated, to reboot the server and to
12 load the new site to which the server has been allocated, each server having a rate of
13 requests it can serve in a time interval and customers share servers only in the sense of
14 using the same servers at different times, but do not use the same servers at the same
15 time;
16 associating each customer’s demand with a benefit gained by ~~the~~ a service
17 provider in case a unit demand is satisfied and finding a time-varying server allocation
18 that would maximized benefit gained by satisfying sites’ demand; and
19 reducing to a minimum-cost network flow problem and solving in polynomial
20 time.